

Hoosier Responder



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Governor Lauds City of Washington Firefighters' Creativity at National Fire Conference

While speaking at last month's Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC), Governor Mike Pence congratulated two Washington, Indiana, firefighters and their role in Indiana's dedication to fire training.

About nine years ago, the two firefighters made it possible for the Indiana Firefighter Training System to provide low-cost, versatile, portable fire training props across the state.

Retired Battalion Chief Kevin Pride and Lieutenant Dwayne

Murphy of Washington, Indiana, built a simulator prototype for about \$1,000. This prototype realistically simulated cutting a hole in a roof for vertical ventilation, breaching a wall, and entering and exiting through a window, skills necessary to save lives and property and to reduce injuries. It can be quickly assembled and taken down.

Based on the cost efficient and innovative design, Indiana built 10 simulators and distributed them to each district in the state.

IAFC Fire Chief of the Year

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fire Chief of the Year award. The award honors one career fire chief and one volunteer fire chief for his or her leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public and contribution,

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This prototype, built by Retired Battalion Chief Kevin Pride and Lieutenant Dwayne Murphy of Washington, Indiana, helps firefighters hone skills in vertical ventilation and other potentially life-saving practices.

Nominations for IAFC Fire Chief of the Year *(continued from page one)*

as a whole, to the fire service.

Winners will be announced and presented their awards August 14, 2014, in Dallas, TX, during the general session of Fire-Rescue International (FRI). The award is

being presented by the IAFC in partnership with Pierce Manufacturing.

The nomination deadline is June 6, 2014. Visit www.iafc.org/chiefoftheyear for more informa-

tion about award criteria and the nomination process. Or contact Courtney Bulger either by email at cbulger@iafc.org or by phone at 703-537-4805.

Smoke Alarms Can Help Prevent Another Tragic Year

Last year was a deadly one in Indiana for fire-related deaths, and this year could be on pace to repeat, as well. There was a total of 85 deaths reported to the IDHS Fire and Building Safety Division in 2013, the most since 2007. So far this year 35 deaths have been reported.

Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson is reminding Hoosiers that working smoke alarms in a residence can save lives.

"Tragically, in several cases where fire deaths occurred, there was not a working smoke alarm in the residence," said Greeson. "A properly placed and functioning smoke alarm can give families the precious extra seconds they need to get to safety."

By law (IC 22-11-18-3.5), all residences in Indiana should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be installed on

every level of the residence, and outside each sleeping area. Hoosiers should test smoke alarms at least once a month, and change the batteries at least once a year. Smoke alarms should also be replaced about every 10 years.

The two basic types of smoke alarms are ionization alarms and photoelectric alarms. Ionization alarms quickly sense flaming, fast-moving fires. Photoelectric alarms better sense smoldering, smoky fires. For the best protection, purchase dual alarms which are a combination of ionization and photoelectric alarms.

Smoke alarms can be purchased at local hardware, home supply, or general merchandise stores. Some fire departments offer smoke alarms for little to no cost. There are also special alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Fire and Building Services Division has created a survey to help gauge how many Hoosiers have working smoke alarms.

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FirePreventionandSafetySurvey>

State Fire Marshal Kicks Off Smoke Alarm Program

Indiana Fire Marshal Jim Greeson has announced the start of a new grant program to help put more smoke alarms in Hoosier homes. The program allows volunteer and small combination (career and volunteer) fire departments to receive and install smoke alarms for their communities.

The State Fire Marshal Smoke Alarm Grant program would not be possible without the State Farm Insurance grant program.

Detailed information about the grant and application forms can be found at www.in.gov/dhs/3858.htm.



Visit
GetPrepared.in.gov

IDHS: Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana

Hoosiers Recognize Emergency Medical Services Professionals

It's the 40-year celebration of an organized Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system in Indiana. In 1974, the General Assembly passed a bill creating the EMS Commission. Indiana has 24,000 EMS personnel, more than 100 EMS training institutions and 700 EMS providers.

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, a week celebrating and honoring emergency medical services personnel, is May 18-24. The theme for this year is "EMS: Dedicated. For Life," and Wednesday, May 21, is Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.

National EMS week brings together local communities and medical personnel who are on the front-line of medicine. There are three goals of EMS week: to promote EMS service within the com-

munity; to educate the public on safety and health-related topics; and to provide information on new EMS procedures or equipment.

Emergency Medical Services is frequently the entry point to Indiana's healthcare system. EMS Week recognizes professionals' dedication and encourages communities to better know their local EMS providers.

Contact local EMS providers or the local Emergency Management Agency for information about local events.



This EMS Week Quilt is comprised of many of Indiana's commission patches from transporting and non-transporting agencies and was the idea of Eric Claflin, system coordinator, Emergency Medical Services Outreach, IU Health. Claflin's wife created the quilt.

Retired State EMS Manager Tom Nowacki Passes Away



Retired State Emergency Medical Services Manager Thomas J. Nowacki passed away at his home Sunday, March 23,

from cancer. He was 59. He is survived by his wife Bethel, daughter Kylie and a sister and brother.

"Tom was a very dedicated professional supporting local provid-

ers of emergency medical services," said IDHS EMS Director Mike Garvey. "Tom was very fair and consistent in enforcing the rules and policies of the Indiana EMS Commission. Tom always performed his job with compassion and a smile. He had a lot of friends in the EMS system and he will be missed."

Known also as "Sparky," Tom recently retired after 20 years as a

state EMS district manager. He spent a total of 36 years in the EMS world, including positions of an advanced EMT and a master diver on Mishawaka's Dive Rescue Team.

Dogged Determination: Sellersburg Woman, Husband Turn Hardship into Help With Search and Rescue Dog

(Excerpt of article reprinted with permission and courtesy of Assistant Editor Chris Morris, The News and Tribune, who also wrote the article. For entire article visit www.newsandtribune.com. This article appeared Sunday, March 30, 2014.)

SELLERSBURG — Paula Lomax was hurting. She was recovering from serious back surgery which nearly left her unable to walk.

At the same time, her family's dog had died. And, to add insult to injury, deadly tornadoes ripped through Clark County on March 2, 2012, as Lomax was trying to get back on her feet.

But the Sellersburg resident isn't one to sit around and lick her wounds. She decided to get involved in the March2Recovery movement that helped displaced tornado victims.

She didn't stop there.

"For four years, I had a lot of trouble with my legs," said Lomax, who suffered from a bone marrow infection. "When I got my legs back, I just decided I wanted to give back in some way. I wanted to challenge myself."

So, with the support of her husband Joe, Lomax purchased a border collie and decided to turn him into a search and rescue dog. For two years, she poured her time, energy and money into her dog

Louie, starting with obedience training and now rescue training. In May, Louie will take a certification test to make it official.

"I was behind her 100 percent," said her husband. "We made the decision to do something like this together. We have always had dogs."

Louie is not the only family member going through training. Lomax and her husband have also completed numerous classes to become certified. It's a long process — online exams, outdoor training, learning first aid, CPR and taking first responder search and rescue classes, navigation classes, and the two have their ham radio license.

"It's very time consuming," she said.

The two are members of the Jefferson County [Ky.] Search Dog Association and have gone out on

several missions with the group, without Louie since he is not yet certified. The group can be called out around the clock for lost hikers, dementia patients or search for missing children with autism. They also help find suicide victims who may be in a field or wooded area. The group covers a 100-mile radius, and is made up of all volunteers. The members receive no money, only the joy of helping others and giving back to the community.

"I thought you just trained your dog. I hadn't thought about the rescue part of search and rescue," Lomax said. "But in doing this we have met some great people who are so dedicated."

She spends many weekends with her husband and dog at Camp Atterbury, near Edinburgh, going through an Indiana Homeland Security search and rescue program.

Indiana is one of a few states with such a program. Joe recently purchased an Australian shepherd named Angus. He has just begun his obedience training course at PetSmart.

"After working with March2Recovery I wanted to stay involved in working with disasters," she said. "It sparked my interest. We have two older kids, so this is our empty-nest project."



Lomax, Sellersburg, works with Louie, her border collie, trained as a recall/re-find search and rescue dog. Louie is trained to find a subject, return to Lomax, then lead her back to the individual. (Staff photo courtesy of Christopher Fryer, The News and Tribune.)

Indiana Focuses on Building Safety May 4-10

Indiana Governor Mike Pence has declared the week of May 4-10 as Building Safety Week, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is reminding Hoosiers how building inspections help with Hoosier safety.

The Fire and Building Safety Division of IDHS is responsible for inspecting thousands of public structures a year, including schools, child care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, restaurants, office buildings and hotels.

“Building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers and all those in the construction industry, work year-round to ensure the places we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe,” said Dean Illingworth of IDHS’s Division of Fire and Building Safety. “Countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of building and fire safety codes by state and local code officials.”

Homes and buildings that are built in compliance with building safety codes result in resilient structures that minimize the risks of death, injury and property damage. Regardless of the department code officials work in—building, fire, planning or elsewhere—they work hard every day to provide public safety by ensuring buildings are

constructed safely. Because resilient structures minimize the risk of property damage, property owners may pay lower insurance costs and millions of taxpayer dollars can be saved when rebuilding from natural disasters.

Hoosiers can make the places they live safer by taking simple steps. A few are:

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of a home.
- Test smoke alarms each month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Develop a family action plan for a disaster, and include an escape plan from every room in the house in case of a fire.
- Use surge protective devices to protect electronic appliances.
- Routinely check the condition of electrical appliances and wiring for damage.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, or anywhere people sit, and store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass and fine dinner ware, in low, closed cabinets with latches.

This year’s theme is Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks.

You can view the Governor’s proclamation at GetPrepared.IN.gov.

Building Safety Week Pool Safety. Outdoor Fun

As warmer weather returns to Indiana, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is reminding Hoosiers to ensure their homes are safe and resilient during warmer weather.

As families move outdoors to enjoy the nicer weather, special precautions should be taken to ensure that outdoor fun remains safe. Swimming pools, grills, gardening tools and fertilizer pose risks to both children and adults.

Swimming pools are often a favorite activity, but can become deadly when not used properly. Children should always have adult supervision around any body of water. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death to children under five years old. A fence four feet high and self-latching gates can help keep children aware from pools.

Outdoor grilling is often a part of warmer weather as well. However, the hot temperatures can be dangerous and lead to injuries. Designating the grilling area as a “No Play Zone” can prevent burns.

Secure Indiana Scholarship

The application period for the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation scholarships is now open. Go to <http://www.in.gov/dhs/foundationsscholarship.htm> for more details.

Active Shooter Exercise at Lawrence Federal Facility Believed to be 1st in U.S.

About 150 local, state and federal participants participated at an active shooter exercise April 17 at a federal facility in the City of Lawrence.

Because of participation by local, state and federal partners and the exercise at a federal facility, this may be the first of its kind in the U.S. This exercise is the third of four that have been conducted over the last 13 months. A full scale exercise is planned for the fall.

Hosted by the City of Lawrence, the exercise at the Major General Emmett J. Bean Federal Center, 8899 E. 56th St, included 43 agencies and organizations from Hamilton and neighboring cities, counties, towns and healthcare organizations.

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Indy CERT Alumni Association Receives Tax-Exempt Status



The Indy Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Alumni Association has been

granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3), meaning from now on donations to the group are federally tax exempt. It was a process that lasted about two years, but now the change in status will allow the group to generate additional funds to train more people in disaster preparedness.

"I want to thank the members of our executive committee who helped make this possible and that includes Melissa Bitters, Loren Johnson, Tasha Phelps

and Sarah Fuhrman," said City of Indianapolis Division of Homeland Security Communi-

cations and Strategic Initiatives Manager Elia James. James is also on the executive committee and is the Marion County CERT program director.

CERT is a community-based volunteer effort and is a component of the Citizen Corps program. The CERT program is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

For more information, contact James at Elia.James2@indy.gov.

National Arson Awareness Week is May 4-10

National Arson Awareness Week is May 4-10 and this year's activities center on the various aspects of vehicle arson. The motivations behind people setting vehicles on fire are similar to other types of arson crimes.

According to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, the common motive for more than 40 percent of arsonists is revenge. An arsonist will target the home of someone he or she wants to "get even with" and a car is oftentimes

seen as an extension of the individual.

Other common motives for vehicle arson are:

- Concealing another crime;
- Curiosity;
- Excitement;
- Insurance fraud; and
- Vandalism

Two-thirds of all intentionally set vehicle fires occur under the cloak of darkness, determined to be be-

tween 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that over the last 10 years, there has been an average of 14,737 vehicle arsons reported, accounting for 26.5 percent of all arsons annually.

Vehicle arson is not a victimless crime. Responding firefighters are exposed to increased dangers from the deadly mixture of fuel and fire. And insurance companies pass on increased insurance premiums to innocent customers.

Indianapolis 9-1-1 Feed Now Hosted by City

9-1-1 call information available online, which used to be hosted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, is now in the hands of the city of Indianapolis. IDHS hosted the service in the short term to assist the city of Indianapolis.

“We had previously hosted the site here at IDHS, The agency was happy to provide temporary help, but our migration to WebEOC 7.4 meant it was no longer an option,” said IDHS Senior Public Information Officer John Erickson. “It would have been quite

expensive to customize the site after the WebEOC upgrade, which is why we informed the city of Indianapolis about a year ago that it would be necessary to return the site to the city.”

Those interested in signing up to visit the new site should go to <https://indy.safetown.org/> to register.

Survey Recipient

Gibson County EMA Director Terry Hedges presented a preparedness backpack March 17 to Genie Gard, of Owensville. Gard was one of 22 recipients randomly selected throughout the state because of her participation in the 2013 IDHS Preparedness Survey.

Hedges made the presentation of the kit during Severe Weather Awareness Week.



Active Shooter Exercise

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“We are increasingly being asked to come up with innovative ideas to combat the continual threat of an active shooter,” said Deputy Chief Curtis W. Bigsbee, Lawrence Police Department. “This process requires agencies to plan, train and evaluate the response in order to determine flexibility and fluidity in a time of crisis.”

The Bean Center, the third largest federal facility in the U.S., has 5,000 staff and is a defense finance and accounting services facility.

Agencies that have been involved in the training are:

City of Lawrence, City of Lawrence Police Department, City of Law-

rence Fire Department, City of Lawrence PSC, City of Lawrence Department of Public Works, MSD Lawrence Township, MEPS, DECO, Marion County Sheriff’s Department, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indianapolis Fire Department, Indianapolis DPSC, Indianapolis Department of Homeland Security, Hamilton County Emergency Management, Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department, Fishers Police Department, Carmel Police Department, Noblesville Police Department, Hancock County Joint Tactical Team, Hancock County EMA, Beech Grove Police Department, Hendricks County EMA, Washington Township Fire Department, White River Township Fire Department, F.B.I., MESH, IEMS, Com-

munity Health Network, Indiana University Health Network, Riverview Hospital, Rehab Hospital of Indiana, VA Hospital, Hancock County Regional Hospital, St. Vincent Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, American Red Cross, INDYGO, and Indiana University.

State: Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Indiana State Police.

Federal: U.S. Department of Defense and Accounting Services (DFAS), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (U.S. FPS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

Unique Public-Private Partnership Formed in District 1

During the 2008 floods, US Steel saw losses of millions of dollars per day. As a result, the company sought ways to link with the public sector, to share information and help one another out in times of need. US Steel then began funding the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). In collaboration with HSIN, US Steel provided the funds to create a District Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

This public-private partnership in District 1 is very unique and has seen great progress over the past few years. Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V Administrator Andrew Velasquez

has lauded the progress and future of the group. District 1 includes the counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton and Jasper.

Currently, Purdue Calumet is working on creating a resource tracking request program for HSIN to use during a disaster. Officials from the university's Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation made a presentation about this program to a group including the following: US Steel, Indiana Gaming Commission, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, National Parks Service, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, Northwest Indiana Community

Organizations Active in Disaster, District 1 hospitals, representatives from Sen. Joe Donnelly's office, and many others.

In the meeting, plans were discussed for developing even more elements to this widespread group. Individuals from the FEMA Region V office in attendance stated they have not seen this level of collaboration and effort between the public and private sectors anywhere else in the nation. A FEMA liaison attends all group meetings and keeps FEMA and other federal agencies informed about the group's progress and accomplishments.

EMS, Fire Reporting Changes

With the upcoming retirement of Safety and Risk Section Chief Gary Robison, who has spent 15 years with the Fire and Building Safety Division, changes are being made to how EMS and fire agencies submit reports to the state.

The changes on reporting will be effective May 12, 2014. An email to those who report to EMS and fire

was sent on April 25, 2014, notifying agencies of this upcoming change.

EMS reports should now be sent to EMSdata@dhs.in.gov. Fire reports should be sent to nfirs@dhs.in.gov. No reports should be submitted through the fire marshal email. All EMS reports should now be sent in XML format, instead of the Legacy

program.

The Fire and Building Safety Division will continue to update and pass on information to all agencies as this process moves forward.

Questions, comments, or concerns can be sent to Assistant State Fire Marshal Robert S. Johnson at rjohnson@dhs.in.gov.



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